IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. (Amended) A vector comprising a recombinant DNA molecule of claim 1.

6. (Amended) A host cell containing a vector of claim 5 or a recombinant DNA molecule of claim 1.

7. (Amended) A method for the production of transgenic plants with altered stomata characeristica compared to wild type plants comprising the introduction of a recombinant DNA molecule of claim 1 or the vector of claim 5.

8. (Amended) A transgenic plant cell comprising stably integrated into the genome a recombinant DNA molecule of claim 1 or a vector of claim 5 or obtainable according to the method of claim 7, wherein the expression of the nucleic acid molecule results in an increased expression or activity of subtilisin-like serine proteases in transgenic plants compared to wild type plants.

11. (Amended) A transgenic plant ell which contains stably integrated into the genome a recombinant DNA molecule of claim 1 or part thereof, a vector of claim 5 or obtainable according to the method of claim 7, wherein the presence, transcription and/or

B3 expression of the nucleic acid molecule or part thereof leads to reduction of the synthesis or the activity of subtilisin-like serine proteases in transgenic plants compared to wild type plants.

B4 13. (Amended) A transgenic plant or plant tissue comprising the plants cells of claim 11.

B5 15. (Amended) The transgenic plant of claim 9, the plant cell of claim 8, or the plant tissue of claim 9, wherein said plant, plant cell or plant tissue is derived from a monocotyledonous or dicotyledonous plant.

B6 17. (Amended) Harvestable parts or propagation material of plants of claim 9.

18. (Amended) A kit comprising recombinant DNA molecule of claim 1 or a vector of claim 5.

B7 21. (Amended) Use of a nucleic acid molecule encoding or regulating the expression of a subtilisin-like serine protease or a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 1, a recombinant DNA molecule of claim 1, or a vector of claim 5 for the production of plants with improved fresh and dry weight, for enhancing the content of sugars and/or protein in plant leaves for the production of plants with reduced leaf temperatures or with reduced water loss and lower water consumption, for the

B7 modification (enhancement) of CO_2 uptake into and H_2O release from leaves, for sustained photosynthesis under high intensity conditions or for the improvement of disease resistance plants.